

Canadian Geoscience Education Network Annual General Meeting
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2015
Laboratory, Redpath Museum
859 Sherbrooke Street West
Montréal, Québec

Present: Charly Bank, John Calder, Kevin Cameron, Lesley Hymers, Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Christy Vodden, Janice Williams, Erica Williams, Jane Wynne

Outgoing President's report (Eileen Van der Flier-Keller)

Eileen thanked everyone for their support during her term and said that CGEN's success rests on the projects that its members bring to the table. She reviewed highlights of the past year, including:

- Careers in Earth Science website (<http://www.earthsciencescanada.com/careers/>) completed its three year grant from the Canadian Geological Foundation (CGF). It is in good shape for the future, but will need ongoing funding for maintenance. *Action: new Executive to seek funding for ~\$3,000/year to cover this*
- A new CGF three-year grant started. It supports upgrades to the CGEN website (<http://earthsciencescanada.com/cgen/>). In the past year many new materials have been added to the CGEN archive (<http://www.cgenarchive.org>) by our webmaster Miriam Vos-Guenter, notably the Geoscape posters and related lesson resources previously hosted on the Geological Survey of Canada website and taken down during a redesign of it. The Geoscape Reconstruction Project, funded by the CGF grant, made these valuable teacher resources easily accessible once more.
- Our parent body, the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES) continues to be very supportive of CGEN activities and provided a \$3,500 grant.

She then introduced the incoming CGEN executive for 2015-2017:

- President: Lesley Hymers, Environment and Education Specialist, Ontario Mining Association.
- Vice President: John Calder, Senior Geologist, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.
- Past President: Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Associate Professor, University of Victoria, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
- Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer: Christy Vodden, science writer, Ottawa
- Incoming Secretary-Treasurer: Shona van Zijll de Jong, Laurentian University

Eileen noted that during the new term, the transfer of the Secretary-Treasurer position to Shona would be completed. Shona, so far, has focused on communications with CGEN members and has set up LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

Incoming President's report (Lesley Hymers)

Lesley welcomed the challenge of being president during a period of transition for CGEN, noting she would be relying on the strong collective nature of CGEN during her term. She thanked everyone on the outgoing executive for their work over the past two

years, with a special thanks to Beth McLarty Halfkenny, Amanda McCallum and Laura Clinton for leading EdGEO during that period.

For the future, Lesley identified the following as her priorities:

- Expanding the reach of EdGEO programs
- Increasing CGEN's presence in Québec
- Promoting EarthLinks, and she sees this as an action for all CGEN members
- Increasing CGEN's social media presence in cooperation with Shona.

Lesley also noted that while connecting with teachers is a key role for CGEN, she intends to focus on the needs and enrichment of core CGEN volunteers as well. She will be suggesting activities for that purpose over the next two years.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer (Christy Vodden)

See Appendix 1 for the full 2014-2015 financial report. Christy reported that as of April 30, 2015, the CGEN bank balance was \$9,365.30 (this includes \$316.52 for the Ottawa-Gatineau Geoheritage Project). Incoming funds included \$1,000 from the Canada Prize Foundation, which has generously provided this level of support annually for the past nine years, and a \$3,500 grant from our parent body, the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences. Outgoing funds covered expenses that are detailed in the financial report.

Christy noted that the CGF three-year grant for the careers in earth science website had ended with the final \$7,200 reimbursed to CGEN. Reimbursement for year one of the CGF three-year grant in support of the CGEN website had also been requested recently [Note: \$5,000 reimbursement was received shortly after the meeting]. She reported that this grant is \$5,000 for each of the next two years. The budget will have to be managed to accommodate covering this amount until all receipts are in and reimbursement can be requested from CGF.

In response to John Calder's question about whether CGEN is in good financial shape, Christy explained that CGEN's expenses are relatively low and grant money is generally sought for any major new projects.

Report of the CGEN webmaster (Miriam Vos-Guenter via email)

Miriam reported that the Geoscape Reconstruction was the major activity of the past year, with the English materials all now posted. She is pulling together the French version (Géopanorama) to be reconstructed in the future. She will also finish posting the remaining waterscapes and update EarthLinks (Aboriginal materials and geologic time/Canadian fossils are the main new materials to be added). Due to the frequent address changes for video links, she has decided to restrict entries to those posted by stable sites such as AGI, NASA, USGS, etc.

Miriam expressed concerns that we need to better coordinate and simplify the newsletter/blog, the official members' list and our social media accounts, as well as simplifying/consolidating the material posted.

The ensuing discussion touched on issues related to membership numbers on the CGEN website, Facebook and LinkedIn, and how we communicate with members – Facebook (blocked by some school boards) and LinkedIn (professional focus rather than outreach/education, lack of interaction). There were suggestions of other possible communication routes to our members that could be explored (John Calder: Research Gate; Janice Williams: ConstantContact). All agreed it was a work in progress, and that this topic should be a major focus at the planned CGEN workshop at Whitehorse in 2016.

Montreal 2015 education workshop (Lesley Hymers)

Lesley reported that she ended up running the workshop as a CGEN event because the Local Organizing Committee, which normally is responsible for this activity, was too busy to manage it. The LOC, however, was very helpful and paid for catering. Nine teachers attended, all from the English board, as CGEN did not have the capability needed to do a French workshop. The feedback from the attending teachers was very positive.

Whitehorse 2016 education/outreach program (Sarah Laxton via email)

Sarah reported that the main components of the Whitehorse program would be:

- Special Session *Making the most of Earth Science websites to support outreach and education*: Abstract – As the Four Billion Years and Counting website joins sites such as EarthLinks, Careers in Earth Science, and EdGEO, which are important for Earth science outreach and education in Canada and elsewhere, this session provides an opportunity to share ideas, experiences and insights for making the most of digital resources to engage young people, support teachers and promote public awareness of the importance of Earth science to society.
- Conference Field Trip *History of the Whitehorse Copper Belt*: Sarah will lead this three-hour field trip. She has run it numerous times for students, teachers and the public, and is looking for one or two volunteers to assist her. *Action: Anyone interested should contact Sarah at Sarah.Laxton@gov.yk.ca.*
- 3) Teachers Workshop: Sarah sees this as an EdGEO/CGEN activity and will start planning shortly with representatives of both groups.

All agreed this was going to be an excellent meeting. Eileen proposed that we take the opportunity to put on a one-day CGEN meeting that would allow time to discuss substantive issues such as whether CGEN is meeting its members needs, are there new roles it should be taking on, and how best to communicate with members.

John Calder hoped that Whitehorse meeting could be a focal point for his planned national geoheritage project. He wants each province and territory to put forward at least three of their most exceptional geoheritage sites, and he is planning to work through the Committee of Provincial/Territorial Geologists to compile this list. The Nova Scotia website, which is still under development, provides an example of what he envisions for the national project: http://gis3.natr.gov.ns.ca/geoheritage_ns_tour/index.html# (until July 15, 2015, then https://fletcher.novascotia.ca/geoheritage_ns_tour/index.html#). The goal

would be to unveil the national list at Whitehorse as a CGEN activity. This could potentially generate good media interest, and would provide an excellent platform for promoting Canadian geology to the public. Many CGEN members were keen to be involved in the project and asked that John let them know who would be the contact for each province/territory so they could connect. *Action: John to provide this information as known.*

Member reports

Canadian Geological Foundation (Jane Wynne)

Jane provided handouts from recently completed CGF-funded projects, showing the impressive range of education and outreach materials that have been produced. Complete project listings for previous years and details on how to apply for a grant can be found at: <http://www.canadiangeologicalfoundation.org>. [Note: The CGF grant selection committee met the day after the CGEN annual meeting, and Jane sent along a list of the projects awarded grants (attached as Appendix 2). A total of \$306,475 was allocated to the 2015 projects].

EdGEO (Beth Halfkenny via email)

See Appendix 3 for full report. During the past year (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015), EdGEO funded seven workshops that were attended by 147 teachers; Amanda McCallum joined the National EdGEO Committee as Co-chair; and CGF awarded EdGEO a generous grant totalling \$60,000 over three years, bringing welcome stability to EdGEO's funding. A top priority for the near future, given increased interest from Quebec, is to find a geoscientist to help review grant applications for EdGEO workshops held in French and to better serve French workshop leaders. The 2015 EdGEO newsletter was distributed. It is online at: http://www.edgeo.org/en_CA/, click on "Newsletters."

Geoparks (Godfrey Nowlan via email)

See Appendix 4 for full report. The big news from the Canadian National Committee for Geoparks is that Canada's second geopark at Tumbler Ridge, BC, was formally announced in September 2014 – Stonehammer in New Brunswick was Canada's first (<http://www.stonehammergeopark.com/main.html>). Two other aspiring geoparks in Newfoundland (Bonavista Peninsula) and Quebec (Percé) have submitted formal letters of intent, with seven others at various stages of development.

Mining Matters (Janice Williams)

Janice reported that Mining Matters is getting more involved with outreach to students rather than its traditional teacher focus; has expanded into Yukon (working with Sarah Laxton); and is developing Aboriginal projects as a priority. Good news about the WHERE Challenge. Last year, Janice reported that there had been senior management concerns at Mining Matters about its viability owing to a decline in student participation. The decision has been taken that Mining Matters will continue to run it, and Janice will be asking museums and geoparks to help promote it to their teachers. As it requires a lot of volunteer commitment for the judging, Janice will be looking again to CGEN for help.

She also presented an idea for a new project that she was exploring with Susan Michaels, Outreach Coordinator, Manitoba Geological Services – one that would potentially work well under the CGEN banner, although she and Susan would do the legwork on it. The goal is to develop a geoscience awareness challenge, based on regional geology, for the Girl Guides, leading to successful participants earning a badge. She asked that CGEN consider becoming the national proponent for the project. She noted that there was the potential for spinoffs to other youth groups (Scouts, Cubs). *Action: Lesley Hymers to follow up with Janice.*

Ontario Mining Association (Lesley Hymers)

The OMA's annual "So you think you know mining" video contest had excellent student participation this year with almost 300 entries. Lesley attributed the good numbers to the hiring of Laura Clinton who made direct contacts with teachers to promote their classes' participation. The gala will be held at the Royal Ontario Museum on May 27. [Note: this year's gala had a high profile with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne attending and giving a speech; \$42,000 in prize money was given out.] As an incentive for future participation, a movie production workshop will be offered to teachers who have been active in the program and to new teachers.

Ottawa-Gatineau Geoheritage Project (Al Donaldson via email)

See Appendix 5 for full report. This group continues to be very active with displays and presentations at various events, as well as guided geotours at some of the region's geoheritage sites. John Calder commended the website. Christy, who is a member of OGGP, noted that the group has a strong core of committed volunteers who give freely of their time, especially its leader Al Donaldson who is indefatigable and an inspiration to everyone.

Nova Scotia outreach (John Calder)

John reported as highlights the work underway with the previously mentioned Nova Scotia geoheritage website and the development of a possible site for a Nova Scotia geopark. He also noted that an interactive mobile app for looking at the geology of a site was in development.

Simon Fraser outreach (Kevin Cameron)

Kevin reported that Simon Fraser will celebrate its 50th anniversary starting in September 2015, and that all departments would be planning activities aimed at students and the public. Professors of the earth science department regularly give public talks. The Nepal earthquake created a strong demand for information, with John Clague being the point person for media and the public.

University of Toronto (Charly Bank)

Charly reported that a two or three-day summer teachers' workshop is being considered, although there are concerns that current strike action by Ontario teachers may affect attendance.

University of Victoria (Eileen Van der Flier-Keller)

Eileen reported that activities of the past year included a pre-service education lab, which had 22 students in attendance, and a teachers' workshop. She is also mentoring undergrads to encourage them to view outreach as a fundamental part of an earth science career, and is involved in developing educational resources for iPads.

Yukon outreach (Sarah Laxton via email)

Sarah reported an active year with an EdGEO workshop, outreach/education activities at Mining Week in Whitehorse last May (with 200 students participating in hands-on geoscience activities) and the Yukon Geoscience Forum, a Permafrost Outreach program, and various public talks and school/public activities. See Appendix 6 for full report.

Timing for 2016 AGM at Whitehorse, June 1-3 (all)

Once the dates for the education/outreach activities are set, the CGEN Executive will schedule the AGM. Jane volunteered to organize an enrichment activity on the Yukon River for attending CGEN members. *Action: Jane Wynne*

Other business (Eileen Van der Flier-Keller)

Eileen noted that there is a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Education (STEM) report, and she recommended that CGEN submit a formal response to it. *Action: Lesley and Eileen* [The report *Some Assembly Required: STEM Skills and Canada's Economic Productivity* can be read in full at:

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/stem-skills.aspx>]

Christy Vodden
Secretary-Treasurer
June 12, 2015

**Canadian Geoscience Education Network
2014-2015 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance at last report (as of April 30, 2014) \$12,645.61 (1)

Incoming funds:

CFES grant, December 2014	\$3,500.00
Reimbursement CGF, careers website, year 3 of 3, Feb. 2015	\$7,200.00
Canada Prize in support of CGEN activities, January 2015	\$1,000.00
Interest (May 2013–April 2014)	<u>\$0</u>
Sub-total incoming	+\$11,700.00 (2)
Total (1 and 2)	<u>+\$24,345.61</u>

Outgoing payments:

1. CGEN core activities/administration

EdGEO, grant for 2014-2015	\$3,000.00
UNB, CGEN AGM room rental	\$113.00
Vos-Guenter, honorarium, travel to Fredericton	\$719.74
Vodden, honorarium	\$500.00
Vos-Guenter, website set up	\$247.65
Haidl, Saskatchewan regional meeting	\$137.18
Redpath Museum, CGEN AGM room rental	\$100.00
CGEN bank charges (low balance, under \$5,000)	<u>\$9.75</u>
Sub-total	-\$4,579.67 (3)

2. Geoheritage (from \$412.52 held in CGEN account)

Lafreniere, OGGP website, annual charge	<u>\$96.00</u>
Sub-total	-\$96.00 (4)

3. Careers website: redesign & promotion: CGF grant, year 3 of 3

Market Zone, advertisement, Cdn. Counsellor, May 2014 issue	\$805.13
Fleiva, careers website upgrade	\$120.75
Market Zone, advertisement, Cdn. Counsellor, Sept. 2014 issue	\$805.13
Market Zone, advertisement, Cdn. Counsellor, winter 2014 issue	\$805.13
Sabeau, website review/upgrade of content	\$1,560.00
Fleiva, updates based on Sabeau review/upgrade of content	<u>\$1,207.50</u>
Sub-total	-\$5,303.64 (5)

4. CGEN website, CGF grant, year 1 of 3

Vos-Guenter, Geoscape Reconstruction Project	\$4,476.00
Vos-Guenter, Geoscape Reconstruction Project	<u>\$525.00</u>
Sub-total	-\$5,001.00 (6)
Sub-total outgoing (3,4,5,6)	<u>-\$14,980.31</u>

BALANCE as of April 30, 2015 **\$9,365.30**

(Includes \$316.52 held for geoheritage project)

Christy Vodden
Secretary-Treasurer
May 4, 2015

2015 Canadian Geological Foundation Grants

#	Project Title (Applicant)	Award
15_00*	Publication of 4 Billion Years and Counting (Scott Swinden and CFES)	\$82,175
15_01	AV Journey through Pacific Museum of Earth (Dr. Kirsten Hodge)	\$10,000
15_03	World of Minerals Exhibit (Quartermain Earth Science Centre)	\$13,000
15_05	Support for publication of 3 volumes of Palaeontographica Canadiana (McCracken, GAC Paleo Division)	\$15,000
15_06	Children's Book, Stonehammer Geopark (Gail Bremner)	\$20,000
15_07	Series of vignettes about the Geology of Nova Scotia (Graham Williams, AGS)	\$10,000
15_08	Documentary "Arctic Greenhouse" (Claudia Schroder-Adams)	\$7,000
15_10	Reader-friendly field guide to Geology of NB and PEI (Martha Hickman Hild)	\$9,000
15_11**	Geoscience Canada (Chris White - GAC)	\$21,000
15_12***	Geoscience Canada (Chris White - GAC)	\$3,500
15-13	Southern Yukon Geological Highway Map (Sarah Laxton, 2016 GAC-MAC LOC)	\$6,000
15-14	Impact Earth - Part 2 (Gordon Osinski)	\$24,000
15-15	Promo and Communications materials for Inter-IGC Conference "Resourcing Future Generations" 2018 (CFES)	\$10,000
15-16**	Students on the Beamlines CLS (Tracy Walker)	\$8,000
15-17	Plesiosaur Project at Manitoba Museum (Graham Young)	\$9,700
15-18	Alex Munro School Canadian Rock Exploration	\$8,100

14_1**	Playscape (AM School Garden Committee, Calgary) Mining Rocks Earth Science Summer programs (PDAC Mining Matters)	\$20,000
14_11**	CGEN Websites (CGEN)	\$5,000
14_20**	EdGeo websites and workshops	\$20,000
14_31**	Science North - Interactive Earth Science program	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$306,475

* These funds were held in trust by CGF.

** These are multi-year grants. 15-11 is for 3 years (\$21,000 for 2 years, \$15,000 for year 3). 15-16 is for two years, \$8,000 each year. 14-1 is in the second of two years of funding, and 14-11, 14-20 and 14-31 are in the second year of three years of funding.

*** This grant is awarded by the Geological Association of Canada from the GAC Endowment Fund.

Grant 15-11 has been awarded from the Thayer Lindsley Endowment Trust Fund. The remaining 13 grants, totalling \$149,800, have been awarded from the Jerome H. Remick III Endowment Trust Fund.

EdGEO Canadian Earth Science Teacher Workshop Program Report to CGEN, May 2015

2014/15 has been eventful for EdGEO. Amanda McCallum has been a welcome new addition to the National Committee, and we are grateful for the continued enthusiastic support and advice of our past Chair, Laura Clinton. We were thrilled to receive our second generous multi-year grant from the Canadian Geological Foundation (CGF) which will continue to provide stable core funding for workshops for the next 3 years, allowing us to concentrate on providing great support and resources for our workshop leaders.

We also are appreciative of annual grants from the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation and the Canadian Geoscience Education Network. This, together with our core funding allows us to continue to produce our revamped annual newsletter, begin the translation into French of our online teaching resources *Bringing Earth Science to Life* and *Putting the Earth into Science*, and support our website. In this year we will be actively encouraging other industry organizations to consider supporting the EdGEO National Teacher Workshop Program.

A top priority for the near future, given increased interest from Quebec, is to find a geoscientist to help us review our grant applications for French language workshops, and better serve our Francophone workshop leaders. As well, we are seeking a translator for our teaching resources.

During the past year (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015), EdGEO funded seven workshops that were attended by 147 teachers. Workshops took place in Halifax, Fredericton, Ottawa, Northern Ontario and the Yukon. Attached please find a list of workshops with descriptions for your information.

Feedback for our newsletter, which was published in April 2014 after a lapse of three years, was encouraging, and we are hard at work on the 2015 edition. The following is an excerpt containing useful information for those at CFES interested in providing an EdGEO funded teachers workshop in their region.

Workshop 101

*Interested in putting on a workshop, but don't know where to begin? Well, check out the EdGEO manual *Bringing Earth Science to Life* at www.edgeo.org/ (click on Resources). In the Overview, you will find a step-by-step guide to building a successful workshop, with templates for advertising, fundraising, feedback, and much more. The rest of the manual includes hundreds of classroom-ready activities for a range of earth science topics, as well as information sheets to provide background, and ideas for adapting materials to your locality.*

Thanks to Christy Vodden for assistance in preparing this report.

Respectfully submitted by

Beth McLarty Halfkenny

Co-Chair, National Committee, EdGEO Canadian Earth Science Teacher Workshop Program

On behalf of the National Committee members;

Amanda McCallum, Co-Chair

Jennifer Bates, Laura Clinton, Sheila Dale-Johnston, Fran Haidl, Toon Pronk, Christy Vodden, Jane Wynne

May 2014 to March 2015 EdGEO Workshops

Halifax

A one-day workshop *Interpreting Nova Scotia Beaches* showed teachers “geology in action” at local beaches, and how this information can be used with their students to teach geological processes. Through talks and hands-on activities, the workshop covered topics such as beach sand composition and its role in the rock cycle, and the various natural and human activities that influence the coastline. [15 participants, \$1660 EdGEO grant]

Fredericton

The University of New Brunswick’s Quartermain Earth Sciences Centre hosted elementary and middle school classes and their teachers at a *Day of Geology*, as the education component of an annual professional geoscience conference. It included hands-on activities about rock and mineral identification and Earth processes, with resource kits for the teachers. [10 participants, \$500 EdGEO grant]

Ottawa

Carleton University ran its annual *Discovering Earth Sciences Workshop* with this year’s focus on sedimentary processes and the aggregate industry. It included a field trip to three local quarries. Participants were provided with hands-on methods and ideas for using the outdoor environment in teaching, and an extensive resource kit. [20 participants, \$1900 EdGEO grant]

The Canada Science and Technology Museum’s annual three-day *Summer Institute for Elementary Teachers* added a half-day workshop on rocks and minerals, and provided resource kits to the participating K-8 teachers who came from all over Canada. The Summer Institute shares innovative teaching strategies for integrating science, technology, engineering, and math into classroom lessons. [39 participants, \$1000 EdGEO grant]

Northern Ontario

The Canadian Ecology Centre’s *Teachers’ Mining Tour* is a five-day program providing a glimpse into the many aspects of modern mining in Ontario. It links the Ontario curriculum to mining technology, the environment, careers, and safety, and includes visits to open pit and underground mines, rehabilitation sites, and related industries. Two tours were run in 2014 – one to Sudbury, the other to Timmins. [48 participants on two tours, \$3000 each tour EdGEO grants]

Yukon

The Yukon Geological Survey ran a two-day workshop that provided an overview of the geological history of the Yukon and looked at the current status of mining and mineral exploration in the territory. A field trip toured local sites that teachers can visit with their students. [5 participants, \$1100 EdGEO grant]

*Further 2015 workshops with applications submitted,

- scheduled before end May:

Carleton University, Department of Earth Sciences, *Discovering Earth Sciences Workshop 2015*, May 29 to 31

- scheduled before end summer:

Teachers Mining Tours, July 27 – 31; August 17 to 21



**CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOPARKS
UPDATE FOR CGEN, MAY 2015**

www.canadiangeoparks.org

Committee Membership

The Canadian National Committee for Geoparks has the following members: Jenna Boon (Joggins Fossil Centre, Joggins, NS), Gail Bremner (Stonehammer Global Geopark, Saint John, NB), John Calder (Nova Scotia Geological Survey, Halifax, NS), Michael Campbell (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB), Randy Miller (New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, NB), Jeff Hunston, (Tourism and Culture, YK), Godfrey Nowlan (Chair, Calgary, AB), Stephen Johnston (University of Victoria, Victoria, BC), Daniel Lebel (Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, ON), Dominique Richard (Ministère des ressources naturelles, Quebec, QC), Pierre Verpaelst (Quebec, QC) and Larry White (Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark).

Committee Function

About six telephone conferences meetings of the full committee are held each year. Committee function is supported by an annual grant from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) on \$10,000. The last installment was received in early 2015 and the relationship is currently being reviewed with a view to greater participation by NRCan and its representatives.

Canada's Global Geoparks

Stonehammer Global Geopark, New Brunswick, established 2010

Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark, established 2014

6th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks

The biennial UNESCO conference on Geoparks was hosted at Stonehammer Global Geopark on 18-22 September 2014. The Canadian National Committee was represented on the Organizing Committee. It was an unparalleled success with a total of 480 delegates from 30 countries attending the conference. A total of 264 abstracts were received of which 12 were declined. However, in the end, only 190 were presented because some of the presenters were unable to come. The conference was enormously successful and has received very positive feedback from UNESCO and many delegates. It was highly professional and yet very friendly and accessible, according to the responses.

Forty of the delegates were from Canada and a special social evening was held on the Saturday of the conference at a local restaurant. All Canadian delegates came to the dinner representing aspiring geoparks from many different regions of the country. Of note was the presence of Jean-Pierre Blackburn, than Canadian Ambassador to UNESCO, who attended the entire conference and demonstrated strong interest in Canada's geoparks.

Future of Global Geoparks at UNESCO

The Canadian National Committee has been very much involved in the working group that is guiding the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks. Representatives have been present at meetings in Paris and Portugal in recent months. The committee looks forward to a positive outcome. UNESCO Executive Committee has recommended in favour; final decision in November at General Assembly.

Establishment of Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark

Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark was formally announced in September 2014. This announcement came just after both operating coal mines in the area had closed down in response to low prices for the resource. It was welcome news for the town and surrounding region, providing a clear opportunity for diversification of the local economy into geotourism and the attendant local economic development.

Re-validation Process for Stonehammer, 2014

The re-validation mission was conducted in early June 2014 and lasted four days. The process is a clear: Stonehammer knew exactly what was being assessed and there was excellent feedback. A green card was issued.

Aspiring Geoparks

Several more aspiring geoparks exist in Canada. Two have already submitted formal letters of intent. **Discovery Aspiring Geopark in Bonavista Peninsula**, Newfoundland submitted its documentation in 2012 and a visit was conducted in the following year.

Percé Aspiring Geopark Project submitted its formal Letter of Intent in 2014 and it was reviewed by the committee. Revisions were requested before approval would be granted for a site visit to Percé. Their Letter of intent is currently being revised in response to the committee's review and they are expected to resubmit in early 2015.

Other Aspiring Geoparks in Canada, from west to east, are:

Wells Grey and North Thompson-Robson Valley, BC

Wood Buffalo, AB

Sudbury, ON

Cabot Head, ON

Charlevoix, QC

Saguenay, QC

Cabox, NL

New Web Site for Canadian Geoparks

We have developed a new web site for Canadian Geoparks at www.canadiangeoparks.org Please consult the site for any additional information. A French version of the site is almost ready to launch.

Godfrey Nowlan, Chair

23 April 2015

OTTAWA-GATINEAU GEOHERITAGE PROJECT

Annual Report to Canadian Geoscience Education Network, May 2015

Displays (Donaldson, Lochhead, Gall, Robertson):

Since our report for the GAC meeting in Fredericton, OGGP has organized poster displays for Pinhey's Point Riverfest on the shore of the Ottawa River, Petrie Island Park, Ottawa Gem and Mineral Show in the Nepean Sportsplex and Ottawa Heritage Day at City Hall. Ottawa Geoheritage Day, run in collaboration with Carleton University, again attracted considerable interest at eight geosites where our volunteers set up displays and guided tours from 10 am to 3 pm.

Talks (Donaldson):

Algonquin College, Canadian Exploration Geophysical Society, Logan Club, Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Centre, Ottawa Archaeological Society, South March Highlands and Carp Hills Ecosystems Committee, Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group, Kanata Seniors' Centre

Geotours:

Pinhey Sand Dunes - Six tours of this site were offered during the summer of 2014 for students from elementary and high schools (Donaldson, Halfkenny, Kari)

Julia Estates Paleozoic Fossils - Ayatana Artists (Halfkenny)

Regional Tour - St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y. (Donaldson)

South March Highlands and Carp Hills Tour - South March Highlands and Carp River Conservation Organization (Donaldson, Robertson, Timmermans, Kari)

Jane's Walk - Tour of Building Stone and Monuments of Central Ottawa (Gall).

Website <<http://ottawagatineaugeoheritage.ca>> (Lafrenière):

The OGGP website has become a regular source of general inquiries as well as requests for both talks and field trips (requests are received and redirected by Vodden)

Continuing Projects:

OGGP continues to provide assistance to both the Perth Museum and the Bonnechere Museum in Eganville.

Restoration of Metcalfe Geoheritage Park in Almonte (rocks moved aside for more than a year to allow repair to the storm sewer) is nearing completion. A brochure comparable to the one prepared for Perth will be completed this summer. An official opening of the restored display (in an adjacent area of parkland) is planned for September of this year.

OGGP is currently assisting the National Capital Commission by checking pathways within the extensive parklands under NCC jurisdiction in order to select places for signage describing features of geological significance (Donaldson, Robertson, Gall).

OGGP continues to collaborate with Ottawa Riverkeeper to seek ways to encourage appreciation of geodiversity within and along our rivers. We will be meeting this summer with representatives of the Windmill Group, developers in charge of major changes centred around Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River.

Allan Donaldson, May 5, 2015



**CGEN YUKON REGIONAL CHAPTER
ANNUAL UPDATE, 2014-2015**

Contact: Sarah Laxton
Sarah.laxton@gov.yk.ca
Phone: 867-393-71876

Mining Week, Whitehorse (May 9-10, 2014)

Exploration tent-camp at Shipyards Park – open to the public
Hands-on geoscience activities for 200 students
School tours of the Whitehorse Copper Belt

Geoscience Workshop for Yukon Teachers, Whitehorse (Sept. 18, 2014)

One day EdGEO workshop hosted by the Yukon Geological Survey and Mining Matters
Morning class room session and afternoon field trip

Yukon Geoscience Forum, Whitehorse (November 18 -19, 2014)

Student Tradeshow Tours
Public hands-on geoscience activities at Geoscience public day

Permafrost Outreach Program, various Yukon communities (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015)

Frost tubes located at schools throughout the territory
Annual visits to meet with classes involved with program
Collaboration with Dr. Yoshikawa, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Public Talks

Various Earth Science topics at Beringia Centre
Tombstone Park – Geology Rocks weekend (August 8-10, 2014)
Interpretive geology hikes at Miles Canyon, Whitehorse (summer 2014)
Whitehorse area – Rock Walks, 2 hr evening geology walks free and open to public summer 2014)

School & public activities, various Yukon communities

Copper Belt Tours
High school and Elementary Geology field trips
Classroom presentations
Yukon Geological Survey Open House (March 2014)
Yukon College school of Mining students – core logging lab at YGS Core Library
Copper Ridge Place care residents – presentation of Whitehorse Geology
Collaboration with Dept. of Env't for Canada Water Week – classroom presentations and hands-on activities